IN THE CLAIMS:

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a zinc ionophore and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20-45. (Cancelled)

46. (New) A pharmaceutical composition effective in protecting tissue against apoptosis *in vivo* comprising at least one zinc ionophore and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

47. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 46, wherein said composition is administered to a subject in need in a therapeutically effective amount of at least one zinc ionophore and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

48. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 47, wherein said therapeutically effective amount of at least one zinc ionophore ranges from about 0.005 μg zinc ionophore per kg of body weight to about 5 mg zinc ionophore per kg of body weight.

49. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 47, wherein said therapeutically effective amount of at least one zinc ionophore ranges from about 0.2 μg zinc ionophore per kg of body weight to about 600 μg zinc ionophore per kg of body weight.

50. (New) A pharmaceutical composition effective in treating or preventing ischemia comprising at least one zinc ionophore and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

51. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 50, wherein said composition is administered to a subject in need in an effective amount of at least one zinc ionophore and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

52. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 50, wherein said therapeutically effective amount of at least one zinc ionophore ranges from about 0.005 μg zinc ionophore per kg of body weight to about 5 mg zinc ionophore per kg of body weight.

53. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 50, wherein said therapeutically effective amount of at least one zinc ionophore ranges from about 0.2 μg zinc ionophore per kg of body weight to about 600 μg zinc ionophore per kg of body weight.

54. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of Claims 19 and 46-53, wherein said zinc ionophore is selected from the group consisting of zinc pyrithione, heterocyclic amines, dithiocarbamates and Vitamins.

55. (New) An anti-apoptosis injectable preparation comprising therapeutically effective amount of at least one zinc ionophore and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

56. (New) An anti-apoptosis pharmaceutical tablet comprising at least one zinc ionophore in a therapeutically effective amount, wherein said therapeutically effective amount ranges from about 0.005 μg zinc ionophore per kg of body weight to about 5 mg zinc ionophore per kg of body weight.

57. (New) The tablet of Claim 56, wherein said therapeutically effective amount ranges from about 0.2 μg zinc ionophore per kg of body weight to about 600 μg zinc ionophore per kg of body weight.

58. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 19 wherein said zinc ionophore is present in an amount from about 0.005 μg per kg of body weight to about 5 mg per kg of body weight.

59. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 19 wherein said zinc ionophore is present in an amount from about 0.2 μg per kg of body weight to about 600 μg per kg of body weight.